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*Note by Mr. F. Ayrton on Professor Paul Chaix' calculation of the volume of water flowing through the channel of the Nile at the season of its flood. See 19th vol. of the 'Journal of the Royal Geographical Society,' page 149.*

Professor Chaix states, on the authority of Lenant Bey, that, in the dry season, the breadth of the Rosetta or western branch of the Nile, measured at a short distance below the point of divergence of its waters through the Delta, is 435·57 mètres with a mean depth of 2·66 mètres, and a mean velocity of 0·795 mètres in a second, which gives a volume of 921·1 cubic mètres per second; and that the corresponding quantities for the Damietta or eastern branch of the river are 253·55 mètres, 4·96 mètres, and ·814 mètres, giving a volume of 821·82 cubic mètres per second. The sum of these two volumes is therefore 1742·92, which we may call 1743 cubic mètres. Professor Chaix then continues, but without citing the elements of his calculation, 'The body of water flowing during the greatest floods would be 5536·086 cubic mètres a second through the Rosetta branch, and 2629·979 cubic mètres through the Damietta branch.' He then assumes the sum of the two last mentioned numbers to be 8,166,065, and is thence necessarily led to the conclusion that the discharge of the Nile during the flood is in the ratio of 8,166,065 to 1742 (for 1743 as shown above), that is, 4600 times greater than in the dry season, and that it would so require less than 14 hours to fill up the basin of the Lake of Geneva with a superficies of 545 millions of square mètres and a mean depth of 80 mètres; and he adds that 'he cannot help doubting the accuracy of the measures which lead to such prodigious results.'

The inaccuracy results from an oversight in having omitted to insert the decimal point in the notation of the figures 8,166,065, expressing the total volume discharged by the two branches during the flood. The calculation should have been as follows:—

	Cubic mètres.
Volume of water flowing through the Rosetta branch during the flood . . . . .	5536·086
Through the Damietta branch . . . . .	2629·979
Total volume per second . . . . .	8166·065

Which quantity, divided by 1743 (the number of cubic mètres constituting the volume of water during the dry season), will give 46·85, which is the number of times that the volume during the flood is larger than that during the dry season.

The cubic contents of the Lake of Geneva will be 545,000,000 of cubic mètres, multiplied by 80, equal to 43,600,000,000 cubic mètres, which, divided by 8166·065, will give 5,339,169 seconds, equivalent to 61 days 23 hours, and which is the time that would be required for filling up the Lake of Geneva if the stream of the Nile at its flood were pouring into the lake.

From the correction now made, it will be seen, on referring to p. 150 of Professor Chaix' paper, that the volume of the Nile during its flood should have been stated to be not more than twice that of the Neva, instead of 2000 times.

#### ERRATUM.

In Miss Colthurst's table, part 2 of vol. 19, page 192, substitute at the bottom 6086·43 feet for 6075·78.